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PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION.

Appended to President Lincoln's Message to the U. S. Congress, is a proclamation, which after reciting the reasons he entertains for issuing it, continues as follows:

I, Abraham Lincoln President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have, directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God."

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are all who are, or shall have been, civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate Government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are, or shall have been, military or naval officers of said so-called confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army, or of lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid the rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, and afterwards aided the rebellion; and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known, that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one-tenth in number of the votes cast in such State at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State, existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State government which shall be republican, and in nowise contravening said oath, such shall be recognized as the true government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the constitutional provision which declares that "The United States shall

guaranty to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and, on application of the legislature, or the executive, (when the legislature cannot be convened,) against domestic violence."

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such State government in relation to the freed people of such State, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, as a temporary arrangement, with their present condition as a laboring, landless, and homeless class, will not be objected to by the national Executive. And it is suggested as not improper, that, in constructing a loyal State government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisions, the constitution, and the general code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State government.

To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to State government, has no reference to States wherein loyal State governments have all the while been maintained. And for the same reason, it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to Congress from any State shall be admitted to seats constitutionally, rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the Executive. And still further, that this proclamation is intended to present the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal State governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal State governments may be re-established within said States, or in any of them; and, while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

CONTRABANDS.—A circular letter from one of the Freedmen's Aid Societies, begging cast off clothing, bed clothing, and the like, for the negroes now exposed to privations, for want of the homes of former days, has been sent to us, and it presents a terrible picture of suffering humanity. In the department of the Mississippi alone, we are informed, fifteen contraband camps are established, at which fifty thousand negroes are already gathered. Those able to bear arms are forced to enlist, while the old women and the helpless children are mainly left to the hand of charity, although thousands upon thousands of dollars are each month reported as expended by Government agents in feeding and clothing these negroes.—Under date of Vicksburg, Mississippi, thirty-first of October, Chaplain Locke, an Abolitionist, writes as follows:—"At Pine Bluffs, below Memphis, are seventeen hundred, who are without food, clothing or shoes to an alarming extent, and many are dying at that point for want of food, clothing and medicines. There are twenty thousand at Vicksburg, seventeen thousand at Natchez, and large numbers at Milliken's Bend, many of whom are in a suffering condition, and thousands must perish this winter, if not assisted by the benevolent."—[N. Y. News.

Rev. Byron Sunderland was yesterday re-elected Chaplain of the Senate of the United States.

Seizure of the Steamer Chesapeake.

The account taken from the New York Express, published in yesterday's Gazette, of the seizure of a vessel at sea and headed "Sensation story," turns out, with the exception of the name of the vessel, to have been substantially true. The vessel seized was the Chesapeake. The government at Washington, was yesterday made acquainted with the facts, and Collector Barney, of New York, was telegraphed to send a revenue cutter in pursuit, and the steamer Miami was dispatched on that business. A dispatch was also sent to the U. S. Consul at St. John's, to detain the Chesapeake should she arrived there. Commander Rhind, at Portland, was advised to take on board light artillery and a detachment of soldiers from the authorities, and go in pursuit of the Chesapeake in the United States steamer Agawam. A dispatch from St. John's, N. B., gives the following account of the seizure:

"The steamer Chesapeake, Captain Willett, from New York for Portland, was taken possession of Sunday morning, between 1 and 2 o'clock, by sixteen Confederate passengers.—The second engineer of the steamer was shot dead, and his body thrown overboard. The first engineer was shot in the chin, but was retained on board. The first mate was badly wounded in the groin. Eleven or twelve shots were fired at the captain. After being overpowered the captain was put in irons, and the passengers notified that they were prisoners of war.

The Chesapeake came to off Patridge Island about 10 o'clock A. M., on the 8th and the crew and passengers, except the first engineer, were put aboard a boat and sent to this city. The steamer then sailed in an eastwardly direction and was subsequently seen alongside another vessel. It is supposed she took aboard a supply of coal from her. The attack took place about twenty miles west of Cape Cod. The steamer and cargo were valued at \$180,000."

The Chesapeake sailed from New York on Saturday, and was one of the regular line plying between New York and Portland. It will be recollected it was the Chesapeake that captured Captain Reed and his party when they attempted to seize the cutter Caleb Cushing in the harbor of Portland.

ELEVEN CHILDREN IN FOUR YEARS.—We met a widow woman yesterday, 21 years old, and the mother of 11 children. She was a refugee from Tennessee, and married when she was fifteen years old, and the first year was the mother of three live, healthy children. In the next twelve months she gave birth to twin girls; then inside the next twelve months she was the mother of triplets, two girls and a boy; then after a pause of eighteen months she presented her husband with another round of triplets, two boys and a girl; and she arrived in our town with the entire lot. Her husband lost his life at the battle of Stone River, and she and her interesting bright eyed little merry group were left to find their way upon the charity of our people, to her friends in the middle portion of Illinois, where she expects to be placed beyond all such humiliating necessities. Her short life has been eventful as well as prolific of events. She looks remarkably young and active, and, if there is no preventing Providence, we will go securely on her some day securing the country in which she locates from all drafts for the army.—[Cairo Democrat.